

VOL. 2



CALGARY, JUNE 21, 1918

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No. 15

THE WAY TO WIN

It takes a little courage, And a little self-control. And some grim determination, If you want to reach a goal. It takes a deal of striving And a firm and stern set chin, No matter what the battle, If you're really out to win.

There's no easy path to glory. There's no rosy road to fame, Life, however we may view it, Is no simple parlor game; But its prizes call for fighting, For endurance and for grit. For a rugged disposition don't-know-when-to-quit."

You must take a blow or give one You must ask and you must lose, And expect that in the struggle You will suffer from a bruise. But you mustn't wince or falter, If a fight you once begin; Be a man and face the battle-That's the only way to win.

> -From the Winnipeg Labor News, published during the strike.

CONCERNING FREE SPEECH

If there is one thing that we love more deeply than another in the United States it is that every man should have the privilege, unmolested and uncriticlsed, to utter the real convictions of his mind.—President Wilson, 1916.

All the newspapers, all the tongues of today, will, of course, at first defame what is noble; but you who hold not of today, not of the times, but of the Everlasting, are to stand for it; and the highest compliment man ever receives from heaven, is the sending to him its disguised and discredited angels.—Em-

THE POWER OF IDEALS.

The ideal of love is a hard doctrine to preach in a world of hate, but all the great teachers of the world have seen that the only possible basis of permanent peace is the establishment in love of the brotherhood of man. Christ taught it, and those who are true to the ideals of Christ still teach it. Above the roar of shot and shell, above the shrieks of the wounded and the groans of the dying, over the battle field of Europe floats a woman's voice, who nursed, wounded friend and wounded foe; the voice of a woman who paid the supreme penalty because she set the captive free; the voice of a woman and a prophetess whose name is indelibly inscribed upon the Honor Roll of history. Hear and remember the words of Edith Cavell: "But this

I would say, standing as I do in view of God and eternity, I realize that patriotism is not enough. I must have no hatred or bitterness towards anyone." That, in my opinion, is the most noble speech that has been made by any speaker during the war. It should be written in letters of gold upon every public building throught the length and breadth of Christendom, for it contains the germ of truth that will yet save

> F. J. DIXON, M.L.A., in Calgary. * * *

ANOTHER FACTOR

Teacher: Now, Johnnie, you understand, "as you sow, so will you also reap." Johnnie: Yes, I know, but I heard father say to get a crop we need some rain.

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In his speech to the Ontario Farmers at Toronto, Pres. Wood stated there was only one kind of Farmer who got into Politics. Our readers will judge which?

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CURRENT HISTORY

On a nice, warm morning, walking downtown—because you don't own an auto or a street-car ticket—a person has a chance to think. Getting right down to business, that is the trouble with most people. One day I heard a city official say that not only should men who run for Aldermen be able to read and write, but they should be compelled to read.

Now, thinking is a serious exercise. I live two miles from my work, and here are some of the things that occurred to me when I thought. That morning the Albertan, had an editorial in which it said there were certain mean individuals and papers of both the old political parties raising dog against the present Union Government. (A man is never fined \$5,000 for making

(Ā man is never fined \$5,000 for making a rēmark like that.) Remember, he said both parties. Robt. C. Edwards, of the Eyeopener, being the Tory, and some other fellows—the Grits. Robert is the only Tory who has ever said anything against the Government, and at election time he will be quiet as a kept persian. But to return to our muttons, as the Good Book says. The Government brought in conscription. Then the Government said farmers would be exempt. Then the Government said farmers—youthful ones of 19—would be exempt. Then the Government said some farmers—youthful ones of 19—would be exempt for a time. Then the farmers we needed to save the situation at the front. Then they weren't needed. I am just as willing as the Editor of the Albertan to accept, swallow, take in, assimilate and devour all the things the Government asks me to, but I'll be goll darned if I can regurgitate as well as some other people I

I had walked three blocks by the time I was through with this idea, and then I thought of the Herald. The Herald was was unough with this idea and then thought of the Herald. The Herald was mouthing tariffs that day. It said in effect: If we could adjust our tariff by having experts work on it so that the price the manufacturers received for his goods would be more, and the price the consumer paid would be less, while labor would be more highly paid and capital more amply rewarded, while at the same time the newspapers received more generous adver-tising space, and the manufacturers waxed fat while the farmers prospered, and everybody paid their taxes and Arnold ceased to worry, all would be well. Upon all this I agreed with the Herald, even to the extent of the "if." But! It is difficult to run with the hare and hunt with the hounds. One cannot serve God and Mammon-give Caesar that which is his, and keep it for yourself at the same time. One cannot go East and West at the same time; toboggan up a hill without some outside power, and so I cannot see how we are to figure this thing out, especially when the Editor of the Herald is absent at the Press Convention. Ten blocks passed.

Tom White is out again. Well, Tom has stopped the export of gold. We have only two economic authorities in this town, namely, Wm. Pearce and Geo. Thompson. If this were a question of land taxation, I would submit it to Mr. Pearce, but as it is a question of gold—let George do it. Thos. White says: We will prohibit the export of gold, and help to after the adverse balance by restricting the imports of commodities (tears of suppressed mirth from the Canadian Manufacturers' Association.), But listen! Gold has a price. It varies im price or purchasing powers at different times. If gold goes out of a country, it will become carce (marvellous prescience that). If it

becomes scarce, it will be dear. If it is dear, it will buy more than if it were cheap. So, if gold went out of this country, and the price of gold went up, commodities would become cheap. If they became cheap, the cost of living would go down. If commodity prices went down, every country would come here to buy, therefore we would increase our exports and thus readjust the trouble we have with the adverse balance of trade. All very reasonable, but Thomas says, No! He proposes to prohibit certain imports. But cheer up, who gives a tinker's malediction anyway, providing the price of jewelry is regulated, and they do not increase the price of high-priced cars. Oh, life is just one grand sweet song.

But, seriously, in all this turning and twisting would it not be well to have more frankness and open-mindedness. No government can possibly maintain the respect of the people while it wallops all over the field. Confidence is what we need. We have wobbling enough. We have the Government on all sides of every question. We have the capitalistic press on all sides of all questions, until the country hardly

knows where it is at.

A man who has travelled widely over this country told the writer a few days ago that never was there such a feeling of unrest, and the thing we plead for to-day is openness, fairness and breadth of dealing between our rulers and the ruled. Confidence is the one essential thing, and confidence is a double sided growth—the Government must trust the people before the people will trust the Government. Well, here I am, and I walked all the way down town.

THE WANDERER.

THE BOLSHEVIKI.

The Cambridge Magazine gives several interesting statements made by M. Petrov, the Bolsheviki delegate, who was sent to Berlin to ratify the Russian peace, and which are quoted from the German Petrov explained that no one in press. Petrov explained that no one in Russia thought the peace satisfactory, but the Bolshevikis were helpless and could not have altered it by force. They hope that after the war a new solution will be possible. Peace was absolutely necessary, and order was gradually being established. The active social policy of the Bolshevikis had won for them the support of the masses and the power of the Soviet's was firm and steadily growing. The financial problem had been greatly lessened by the fact that the Soviet organization gave a voluntary unpaid army of administration whose reward was welfare of their country. wand was wenter of inter country. The annulment of state debts had also helped, and measures were planned for putting agriculture and industry on a firm financial basis. Capital had tried to go on strike, but it ended in failure, the state intervened, and industry, finance, agriculture and transport had been re-established on a genuine commonwealth basis. The food situation had much improved, due to a system of tickets and maximum prices. The factories were run by the workers themselves, and the law was being administered by revolutionary tribunals. The share capital of the former private banks had been confiscated and interest practically abolished.

What did YOUR member do at Ottawa? Read our Parliamentary Letter. (Pages 7 and 12.)

You want "Peace at Home"? Yes. Then read Alex. Ross' article. (Page 4)

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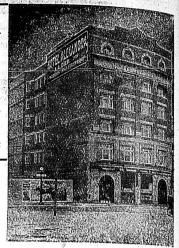
The President of that great institution which is making its influence felt all over the Dominion in these days when we all feel the increased cost of living, has spoken. His speech has been duly recorded. In essence it is a plea for domestic peace—a peace on terms dictated by the organiza-tion which he represents—the Canadian Manufacturers' Association. His peace terms are benevolent, inspiring and generous, not unlike the peace proposals that occasionally filter through our censored press from the Central Powers. His terms are the terms of a victor, and to quote a classical quotation, "To the quote a classical quotation, "To the victors belong the spoils." We cannot deny his authority to speak as a victor. Did not his association enter into a league with the reactionary elements within the state before the last election? Did not the money subscribed by him and his associates buy up the Press, Pulpit, and everything that could be bought? It is now a matter of history that the campaign funds which he so generously subscribed to, coupled with the unscrupulous methods of the politicians in Canada, successfully prevented the democratic elements from getting representation at Ottawa. We were then told that the reason for the fusion of political forces in Canada, now known as the Unionist party, was to bring peace and harmony at home. Just how the brutal political methods of the manufacturers and their hirelings could bring peace and harmony out of the chaos that then existed was never satisfactorily explained. Many swallowed the propaganda of these gentlemen and the inevitable has happened; the Unionist party won a great victory but there is more strife and less cohesion within the state than ever.

Having gained power by the unscrupulous methods of his party he now holds out the olive branch to those he outraged. He would even be prepared to give Labor representation at Ottawa in order to bring industrial and political peace. Labor would have had representation had it not been for the manufacturers and their ill-gotten gains. Have the manufacturers become repentant or is this the usual camouflage? Recurring strikes and general discontent are worrying the president of this benevolent institution, and he would pacify labor by giving them representation. If we are not mistaken labor will not be so easily pacified; the discontent in Canada is due more to the unsatisfactory economic conditions than to the political schemes of those in power. Political representation will not quell that spirit of revolt which is evident throughout the world and is now being felt in Canada.

It is a revolt against class privilege and the economic conditions arising out of the entrenched power of capital. Domestic peace can only come when such men as the President of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association realize that a change in our industrial system must come now, or be forced when those who produce have strength enough by political and industrial organization to compel that change. We have no reason to believe that the benevolent manufacturer will assist or encourage in that change that is about to take place. On the contrary, we have every reason to believe that those who are endeavoring to secure better economic conditions, will find our Captains of Industry fighting to retain those privileges which have enabled them to extract profits while the masses have been fighting to protect them. There cannot be peace until our Captains of Industry are disarmed.

It is unfortunate that in Canada there has not been developed what has probably been the greatest medium towards industrial peace—the establishment of cooperative societies. The great educational value of the co-operative societies cannot be overestimated; they have demonstrated that the manufacturer as a unit, can be dispensed with and that the mass can collectively manufacture and distribute the necessities of life. It gives those who have participated in, and also those who have watched the development of these institutions, a vision as to the possibilities of the future. Why could not the individual manufacturer be eliminated entirely? Why not have the extension of the cooperative system applied to all industry as the next stage in our industrial evolution?

There has been a halo of hero-worship woven around the heads of our successful Captains of Industry in individualistic Canada. They have been regarded and are regarded yet by many as indispensable in their present capacity. We have been unable to discover with all the directive geius that capital can buy, any corporation that can produce a statement equal to the co-operative societies of Great Britain. In 1916 the net profit was \$81,000,000 and this profit was declared after selling goods in competition with private enterprises and paying wages equal to, and in many cases superior to, competing firms. These co-operative institutions did \$900,000,000 co-operative institutions and 2000,000,000 worth of business. If an equal amount of business has been transacted by private corporations, and 81 million dollars' profit declared, it would have added 81 more millionaires to the far too many millionaires in Britain. These great societies had no greedy manufacturers to satisfy, they only had the three and one-half million small investors and after paying a fair rate of interest on the investment, 81 million dollars were returned to the



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purchasers. Such a simple demonstration of what can be accomplished by the mass in the production and distribution of necessities is having a decided effect in the older countries in Europe in determing what form the reorganized State will take, and all students of economics agree that the old system must give way to a new social order after the war.

Individualistic Canada must follow, and we see in the discontent of the mass a struggle for something probably not too well defined, but at least a latent desire for a change in our industrial system, which has enthroned a class of people who cannot remain in power if harmony is to prevail at home. The President of the Canadian Manufactures' Association can only conceive of a future state of high tariffs, and huge profits, with Canada a great exporting colony. This conception of a future Canada is entirely out of harmony with the wage earner, because it implies the retention of power by the worst elements within the state. Political representation is not enough; there can be no peace at home until privilege surrenders.

Did your member help the farmers at Ottawa? Read Jas. Miner's Interviews. (Pages 8 and 9.)

"Politics is the business of the people"



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"There is no wealth but life. That country is the ikhut which nourishes the greatest number of noble and happy human beings." - Ruskin.

INCREASED Production is not in-PRODUCTION creased by the talk of politicians, not advanced by resolutions and newspaper

publicity. Nothing short of real ac-

tual work will do this.

The need for greater production no one doubts, and the need will contime to increase, while the supply under the present methods of procedure must inevitably decrease. Next year the Allies will have a wheat shortage greater than the present, while no adequate scheme has been put forward to meet the situation. At this very moment, the Canadian prairies should be turning over from a million plowshares, if our government were alive."

The necessity for men in trenches has compelled the government, according to its own view, to take the men from the farms. What is the government going to do in order not only to make up for the loss of these producers, but to still further increase production? Silence is the answer.

We offer the following proposal in all seriousness, believing that the situation demands its immediate adoption. Conscript the farm machinery output that is now in stock, or that may be manufactured during the period of the war, and see to it that every farmer has at his command all the machinery of the most modern type which he can handle. Five thousand tractors should now be. working on the Western prairies, and might be driven by the thousands of people engaged in unproductive competitive business, aided by the members of the Legislature and the Senate. The gentlemen composing these institutions are not engaged in productive work. They are hinder-

ing production by allowing Canadian manufacturers to reap tariff profits from the farmer.

If the mothers who have pioneered in the Canadian West must give their sons, surely manufacturers must give their tractors and binders, etc., to help feed the army and win the war. Hurry with this.

ONTARIO FARMERS AND THE PRESS.

The farmers of Ontario are up in arms against the daily press. They have awakened to the fact that when one

section of the community is burning under an injustice and anxious for an opportunity to state their case, there is no medium through which they can convey to the public a clear and unbiassed statement of their grievance. They have had to submit silently to the misrepresentation and ridicule of the daily press which from the start refused to believe there were two sides to this question, and that it is in the national interest that full publicity be given without fear or favor.

The bitter truth has been demonstrated to them that Canadian journalism is controlled by the foes of democracy and fair play, and that hordes of hired scribblers are ready to sell their very souls to their masters by distorting, suppressing, exaggerating or misquoting facts in an endeavor to stir up strife between the farmers and the other members of the community.

The farmers mean business now, and their resentment has crystallized into a universal demand for a daily paper of their own, financed and controlled by farmers. If the farmers are loval to their principles, and support their own paper when it materializes, this may mark the dawn of a new era in Canadian newspaperdom-a real independent daily press.

AN OBJECT Ontario farmers learned how futile industrial LESSON organization can be

without political representation when they were unable to have their grievances against the recent ordersin-council stated on the floor of the There are House of Commons. several farmer members at Ottawa, but they were elected by the aid of the party machine and their allegiance to party was stronger than their loyalty to their own class. The delegates to Ottawa speedily found out that very little help could come from that source, and many of them returned to their homes with the firm conviction that justice can never be obtained for them until they have real farmer members whose election expenses will be paid by the farmers

instead of by a party which by that lever can control their actions. Never was it more clearly demonstrated that he who "pays the piper, calls the tune.'

IN THE MELTING POT

The present crisis in the U.F. A. is a time of test that comes to all young organizations

That there is dissension and difference of opinion in its ranks proves the virility of its membership. By years of patient effort and unremitting hard work a splendid organization has been built up which is second to none in this province for its clearness of perception, sanity and adherence to democratic principles, and it will be a great calamity if this movement is wrecked at this time through its inability to adjust itself to the new conditions. The times we live in perhaps tend to force development, which, in the natural course of events. would take years of evolution, and this no doubt accounts to a certain extent for the hesitation and lack of initiative shown by the U.F.A. Executive in their now famous message to the Government re further conscription of farmers.

We believe that the bulk of the members will remain loyal to the U.F.A. at this time, but a strong demand is manifesting itself for more resolution on questions of political and industrial importance. It will be well for the executive to take cognisance of this new element if the U.F.A. is to remain a solid and harmonious group. Strong leadership is required to pilot the organization through the turbulent times and prevent disruption. A bold policy of readjustment is necessary. Slavish attachment to precedent and too much reverence for tradition and custom have perhaps been the principal weakness of this body in the past. All eyes are turned towards President Wood at this time. Will he measure

up to his opportunity?

THE HOGS The Canadian Manu-TO THE facturers' Association FRONT. has come forward and definitely thrown its

hat into the ring on the tariff question. It wants it to be distinctly understood that the farmers surrendered everything they owned to the Canadian manufacturers at the recent election, to have and to hold from this day forth, for worse and for more worse, evermore.

Also the manufacturers want it understood that this is no peace of

compromise-no peace of conciliation-no mutual concession-it is a take it or leave it-German Emperor. Brest-Litovsk style of peace in which the body of the farmers, lies down inside the tiger of the C.M.A.! And there's a smile on the face of the

tiger.

But all is not lost. There's a divinity that shapes our ends, as the pup said when the preacher cut off his tail. The farmers are still thinking. Ontario is awake and organizing, even the common people occasionally have a thought, and the Manufacturers' Association is taking the best possible way of throwing away what chance it had of escaping the wrath to come.

We do not always suffer fools gladly. If we were members of the C.M.A., or any other privileged gang of exploiters, we would walk with pussy feet—like cats on velvet—in these days. That's the only way to hang on to a privilege. Go with circumspection, tread softly, and never let the world know of your

existence.

The "Herald" is from BUSINESS AS USUAL! day to day publishing an interesting series

of side-lights on modern business methods, under the general heading of "A Merchant's Advice to His Son." One of the more recent of these articles calls attention to the serious danger a merchant runs of losing business as a result of the giving away of trade secrets by incompetent help, instancing the case of a druggist's clerk who turned away a fifty-cent sale by divulging the information that a certain widely-advertised "salve" was nothing more than vaseline, tinted green.

This thoroughly typical specimen of business ethics has a somewhat comical bearing on another burning question just now engaging the attention of the "Herald," i. e., the teaching of "religion" in our schools. Possibly the poor innocent above referred to had imbibed at school or church the teaching of the golden rule, " As ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them like-wise," and being green to wise," and being green to com-mercial life, had not yet realized that such teaching was of a purely idealistic nature, and not by any means to be applied to every-day affairs, more especially where "loss of business" might result.

> On the same page, the "Herald" makes an impressive and urgent call to the nation to " take a day off from its multitudinous activities of a more or less selfish nature," and indulge in a day of prayer—on a Sunday, of course. It would certainly seem to be badly needed. unless indeed, most of us are past praying-or praying for.

VOCATIONAL TRAINING

Vocational training as explained by the Vocational Branch means that the State will make an effort to prepare the disabled men for the industrial struggle after the war, so that their earning capacity will not be seriosuly impaired.

The various elements within the State, however, approach the all-important question of vocational training from different angles.

As the Government Sees It.

The Government is inclined to regard vocational training as a reward to the soldier who has been incapacitated while performing military service in defense of the State. Approaching the question from that point of view must inevitably lead those who are directing the work to regard vocational training as something that ought to be done, and done as cheaply as possible. In other words, they are more concerned about the cost than the national, moral or economic value or effect of vocational training. statement we would draw attention to the narrow distinction of what constitutes eligibility for training, also the short courses allotted by the Vocational Branch.

What the Soldiers Think.

The soldiers' point of view, generally speaking, is, I believe, that he regards vocational training as a reward for services rendered, and something which the State owes him. We have never been able to get any idea of what they think of the general economic effect of vocational training, but the majority feel that the individual at least will be benefitted. Although they regard vocational training as the duty of the State, this does not evidently militate against the soldier in his desire and enthusiasm to make the most of the course allotted to him. This desire from our observation is probably more pronounced with the unskilled; that is, those who had no trade prior to enlistment.

The Manufacturers Embrace It.

The Canadian manufacturers, judging by the reports such as emanate from the Social Reconstruction League regard vocational training as a splendid method of training men to man their industries at the conclusion of the war. Their fond hope seems to be that Canada should occupy a more important position in the manufacturing

world. They fully realize that a plenworld. They fully realize that a plen-tiful supply of skilled labor means cheaper production and enhances their chances in the industrial war which they predict will follow at the conclusion of this war.

The Trade Union Viewpoint.

The trades unions again are inter-The traues unions again are interested and sympathetic towards vocational training. The skilled trades naturally endeavour to see that nothing is done which means lowering the standard of their working conditions. It is important that this phase of it should be considered not as some would make us believe, because they wish to create a monopoly in the trades for those who come safely back or for those who never saw military service, but because the skilled trades are the mainstay of our industrial movement. They have not only obtained and maintained improved conditions by reason of organization, but they have assisted and do assist the unskilled to better their assist the unskined to better their conditions. The problem of the Unions is the general economic effect of vocational training, if a policy of turning out a large number of partially. trained men into the labor market is adopted. Assuming that the status quo of our industrial system is maintained at the conclusion of the war, we ought to seriously consider vocational training and its relation to our industrial organizations in order that the returned soldier may not be entirely at the mercy of Employers of Labor. when the glamour of the war has worn

Vocational Training and Employment.

Vocational training, nor any other training, will not guarantee employment, but it will undoubtedly help many a one to secure a job. There is no doubt that when we return to normal industrial life that employers will employ those only who can best fill the bill. That is all the more reason why our vocational training should be more thorough. We believe the returned soldier cannot be re-educated by a set of rules from Ottawa. There can be no standard set up except for guidance. The whole scheme of voca-tional training should be entrusted to men of broad, human sympathies. and the finished product—the soldiershould be trained to fit into our industrial life.

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Our Parliamentary Letter

From Our Special Correspondent

THE FIRST SESSION-A RETRO-SPECT.

Ottawa, June 15th, 1918



It is now possible to attempt some survey of the first session of the new parliament. Its election and advent were heralded as the dawn of a new era by the vast majority of our daily press who assured us that a political millenium was being ushered in for the Dominion. It would be difficult to assert that that pro-

phesy has been fulfilled. As far as the mental quality of the Unionist majority is concerned, there was soon obvious one of the defects of its origin. Whenever two parties or sections of parties coalesce, there is invariably an acute difficulty in many constituencies about the choice of a candidate. It was very easy to allocate certain constituencies to Liberal Unionists and certain to Conservative Unionists, but the choice of a central allocating committee did not always meet with local approval. Each wing of the united party in such cases is usually convinced that it has a prior claim to the seat for a first-class man whom it has available, but the superman preferred by each side has probably been an active politician in the past and thus become objectionable to the other wing. A confirmed Conservative would be unacceptable to the Liberals, and an ardent Liberal would not rouse enthusiasm among the Tories. inevitable result is a compromise on some colorless mediocrity who will be a safe man and not offend either wing. In the East the election was fought more or less on the old party lines, but west of the Great Lakes the necessity of pleasing the strong Conservatives and ardent radicals who had formed a common political association has resulted in the choice of many more or less indifferent Unionist members possessed of no particular abilities or political convictions. The result of this process is clearly reflected on the Unionist benches in the House.

Now, the average Western constituency is staunchly radical in its political outlook, but a large proportion of the members who came from the West were of the mugwump faith, anxious to please everybody and possessed with a firm belief that they must give unswerving support to the Government, whose creation was responsible for their entrance to political life. The result was that according to veteran members of the press gallery who are necessarily good judges of the House, there was no great improvement in the type of member presented by the Unionist There were certainly no recurring signs of original thought, and no displays of inspiring eloquence from its benches. There was at first some evidence of independence and political courage, but it did not survive the determined onslaughts of the cabinet upon all such performances. Many of the new members were obviously handicapped by lack of parliamentary experience and knowledge of the rules of procedure. They had not acquired the habit of thinking on their feet so necessary to successful debate, and they still retain the inborn reverence of the ordinary man in the street for people called by the name of Minister. The only real striking debate

in the House was the first day's discussion on titles when there was visible a fine democratic spirit which gave promise of better things.

But the truth is that the Cabinet did not give the average private Unionist member a ghost of a chance. Even before the war, both in Britain and Canada, one deplorable and unhappy feature of politics was the gradual dominance of the executive Cabinet. More and more did they assume to themselves the powers of parliament. They devised policies, created issues, regulated business and called upon their party followers at stated intervals to ratify their decisions and support their projects. The time allocated to private members was gradually curtailed and Government matters occupied most of the House's time. All independence on the part of the individual private member was sternly frowned upon. The whips were constantly put on, and he was treated as a mere rubber stamp for recording decisions. The war has accentuated this process, both in Canada and Great Britain, and to-day the Cabinet at Ottawa arrogates to itself an absolute monopoly of power. Legislation by order-in-council may occasionally be permissible during parliamentary vacations in times of crisis like these, but when Parliament is in session, orders-incouncil are utterly out of place. The Parliament of Canada is the sovereign authority that the people of Canada acknowledge, and as far as possible it should be consulted on all important problems. During the last session, the Cabinet passed important measures such as the amendment to the Military Service Act by orderin-council, and afterwards came to the House for ratification. There were practically no open protests from the Unionist benches, but undoubtedly many Unionist members, particularly of the Liberal faith were bitterly grieved at their treatment by the Cabinet and the whips. There was absolutely no excuse for Sir Robert Borden's attitude upon the titles question. By the express statement of the mover and seconder, it was to be treated as an open question, and Sir Wilfrid Laurier de-liberately declared that he did not regard the issue as one of confidence in the Govern-Many of the Cabinet were known to be in favor of complete abolition of titles, and if the speeches on both sides were any criteria, there was a majority for total abolition in the House at any time. But, because it did not suit Sir Robert Borden and some of his entourage to make an end of titles, the party whip was invoked, and what are evidently the genuine desires of the Canadian public were stifled. Mr. Levi Thompson and Mr. Campbell, of Le Pas, were two among many Western Unionists who felt their position and bitterly resented the Premier's attitude.

There is a theory which has been sedu-lously spread throughout the constituencies that Unionism is synonomous with independence in politics. Many of the radical pendence in pointes, than pioneers of the West have steadily and justly acquired a deep contempt for the old political parties. They have been and old political parties. will be in future, asked to support the Union Government for the name will be retained whatever happens, on the ground that it means a breaking away from old parties. But there is no merit or promise of independence in Unionism if Unionist members are to tamely bow as they did in the last House before the party lash.

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The Non-Partisan Movement

RESPONSIVE AUDIENCES -- A GOOD OMEN

By Mrs. L.. C. McKinney, M.L.A.



Since writing my last letter it has been my good fortune to make several visits in various parts of the Province, largely in the interests of our work. In fulfilment of promise of long standing I visited Craigmyle on May 27th where the energetic President of

U.F.W.A. had arranged a joint meeting of the U.F.W.A. and U.F.A. for the

A splendid audience of men and women greeted us there and I gave for the first time a brief account of the recent session of the Legislature as seen through the eyes of a Non-Partisan and a woman.

In the evening we motored to Delia where the U.F.W.A. of that point had arranged a meeting, and spoke to a crowded house on "The War of the Future." The following day I went to Hanna where an afternoon meeting had been arranged and spoke again on the work of the Legislature. The Hanna meeting had been hastily arranged and was not as largely attended as the other two but lacked nothing in enthusiasm; indeed the enthusiasm with which we were greeted at all three points was an inspiration to the speaker and gives wonderful promise for the future of our work. The towns mentioned are situated in the heart of country that is not only highly productive, but is settled with a class of farmers probably second to none in their progressiveness, public spirit and average intelligence.

When such men and women as these receive with such enthusiasm the representative of our organization, I justified in interpreting it as promise of better things to come. Every visit to that part of the province intensifies my first impression of the district and I am gripped by a sense of the bigness of it all

and the vast possibilities of development that are stored up there. On Saturday, June 1st, Mr. Moore, Mr. Weir and myself went to Cardston where Mr. Moore succeeded in forming the first local organization of the provincial constituencies. I believe the task of writing an account of the Cardston meeting is given to someone else so I will simply add that not only your representatives but also the principles which these representatives enunciated were received kindly and treated generously, and we left regretting that we had not more time to get acquainted with this interesting little town and its people.

Last week I was able to visit a remote part of my own constituency and when I mention that we had to motor 90 miles and incidentally pass through three other constituencies in order to reach this particular poll, you will understand that we need either a readjustment of boundaries or the expenditure of a little money in the construction of roads across the hilly country. We were well rewarded for our ride when the whole community turned out to a meeting in the schoolhouse, which had been arranged by our good friend Mr. Geo. Heaton to hear their representative give "an account of her stewardship." We were invited to come again and at the present moment have every intention of accepting the invitation in spite of the fact that it rained during the night and we had to motor through 90 miles of mud to reach home next day.

This week we are en route to Ottawa to attend the Convention of the Dominion. W.C.T.U. Have made one stop in Saskatchewan and one in Manitoba, and find. that in these two provinces the Red Cross drive for funds is on. Aside from that the chief topics of conversation are Registration day and conservation of food.

If while in Ottawa I am able to get any light on the war situation, I shall tell you in our next issue. I expect to be at home again about the middle of July.

-Louise C. McKinney.

MY INTERVIEWS AT OTTAWA

By James Miner, Bawlf, Alta.

Since our last issue Mr. Miner has been in Calgary to obtain exemption for the son of a widow in the Bawlf district. We gathered some additional details of his Ottawa interviews which we think would interest our readers.

Prefers Mewburn to Crerar



"Although I knew "Tom" Crerar well, I was better pleased our interview with Mewburn than with any other member of the Cabinet. When he sees that one means business, he pays close attention and gets to the point of it. We saw Crerar on three diff-

erent occasions and being well acquainted hoped to make some headway with him, but all he could say was "things were in such condition that if understood we would take a different viewpoint." He already seems to look much older, his hair is whiter, and at the big meeting appeared worried and sat "mum" with his head in his hands most of the time."

Presents Case for Alberta

As Mr. Gurney knew General Mewburn, I presented our case to him, going straight to the point and never mincing matters. It seemed to suit him. "You already know the reason I am here from Alberta to see you, and no preamble is necessary. I am here on behalf of Alberta farmers whose circumstances you do not understand in the East, as conditions are so very different in Ontario.

In the first place you Eastern people have men for your acres, while in the West we have many acres to the man. I am safe in saying that each boy this order takes from production in Alberta represents easily one hundred acres of crop.

From my observations in travelling through your country in coming to Ottawa, I would judge that it would take four Ontario boys to equal one of ours in acreage, and I would further say the productiveness of Alberta is easily two or three times your Ontario production. So with that in view it is hard to get at a just equalization of the value of the men to be left on the

Moreover, in Alberta our population consists of a younger class of people by

far than you have in Ontario and we have already given more of our sons in proalready given more of our sons in pro-portion to population than any other province of the Dominion. We also have province of the bollminon. We also have been free in giving to patriotic funds. Alberta stands top of the list in that, and the district I represent, Camrose, is the banner district in the whole Dominion for banner district in the whole Dominion for contributing to patriotic funds. I do not wish you to think we have done any more than our duty in regard to that,

Our conditions being so different you Our conditions penng so uniferent you do not realize the predicament that we are in. This order brought seeding to a are in. This order brought seeding to a standstill in our district, and if I had authority to wire home relief for the boys authority to wire nome rener for the boys taken, by Monday morning there would be five hundred outlits going to work that are now idle. This is no exaggeration, are now idle. This is no exaggeration, as I am confident there would be more than that. It means there will be half a million acres of Alberta soil that will not produce crops this harvest, and if we have a good season it will be most difficult to harvest that already seeded, and almost out of the question if our 19-year-old boys that you are threatening to take, are taken from us.

taken from us.

Not only will the crop for 1918 be diminished, but the acreage for 1919 will suffer fully double. Many of these young men have bought land and outfits, they have got gasoline and steam motors, and horses, and were working as hard as iwas possible for anyone to do, until this famous Order-in-Council was issued on

April 20th.

Now discouragement is universal in the land. The Government is to blame for this, and you personally gave these men exemptions last Fall, two weeks before election. We all considered it was in good faith and acted accordingly. Heavy purchases of production machinery and horses and harness have been incurred by the young men, supported by us. Therefore the discouragement reverts also to the older class, and nobody has any heart now to go ahead and help produce as before

With that in view, if nothing more can be done than to save the widows' sons and the aged parents' sons, you surely can leave the 19-year-old boys until this crop is garnered at least. Alberta is a very productive province, and we are anxious to do our part. Production in anxious to do our part. Production in grain and meat will be curtailed greatly and sorely by this action, and if some reasonable and justifiable way can be found to ease the situation it would be greatly appreciated."

General Mewburn's Reply

Gen. Mewburn replied very frankly: "I must say that I think I have been misled regarding Alberta, but Alberta is a province in the Dominion the same as any other province, and Alberta people should do their share in war as well as other provinces. While I am not disputing what you say as to their supporting the cause faithfully, they have done nobly, but conditions are such that we cannot make any class preferable to the other class, and the main issue is to get the slackers that we feel confident are in the land, mainly in the towns, villages and cities; and only by an order of this kind can we comb the country very thoroughly.

While I cannot assure you that the widows you spoke of can have their only sons, neither can I tell you that the aged parents can have their only sons; but we will make a special effort to see that such cases have attention. And I feel now that there should be a distinct effort made to extend the such cases have attention. made to protect the producing men.

A Further Appeal

"I think in the matter of drafting men you should go heavy on the consumption end and go easy on the producing end, as without a doubt you will be short of food before you realize it. The United States have a great many men ready and willing and wanting to go and the Allies haven't the ships to take them over in. I think it is utter folly to take our boys from the productive Western provinces, and have them lying idle waiting for boats to go in, when the United States boys have no transports to take them. Further, it takes two to three untrained

men to replace those now taken who have grown up on a farm. A raw man on a farm in charge of horses and machinery may even do far more damage than good. Taking into consideration the vital necessities of the nation, such an idea of conserving the man-power of the country doesn't appeal one bit to me.

I trust you will be able to grant some relief for the producers along that line.

Laurier's Opinion

We interviewed Sir Wilfrid Laurier with the idea of not allowing Parliament to be prorogued. Sir Wilfrid was just as much discouraged as we were and said: "If I thought we could do the country any good I would be willing to sit all summer but our laws are now being made by Order-in-Council. This would have to be changed before we could do anything in the making of the laws."

Justice Duff was also very amenable

and sensible.

Alberta Members Not Very Interested

We saw several Alberta M.P.'s-Messrs. Blair, Buchanan, White, Mackie and Halliday, in the Members' Room at the House of Commons. We only got to grips with Mr. Blair, the others only giving us passing notice—very different to election time. Mr. Blair who is a large farmer, said the Government must have every man needed, and to harvest his crops he would pay \$10 a day if \$5 would not get men. I queried how he would find them as they were not in Alberta to get.

A Heart to Heart Talk

Mr. Blair:—We will get them. The Government will issue an order and take all the commercial men off the road.

You will have a fine bunch of help, if

you get them, won't you?

Mr. Blair:—They can surely do work. All the work they will do will be around the table, but as far as harnessing the horses, milking the cows, feeding the pigs, and setting up stooks, I know about how much they can do. They will be an eternal nuisance to anybody.

Mr. Blair: What class would you take

first? Lawyers.

Mr. Blair:—What next?

The bankers.

Mr. Blair: How would you manage to do business without banks?

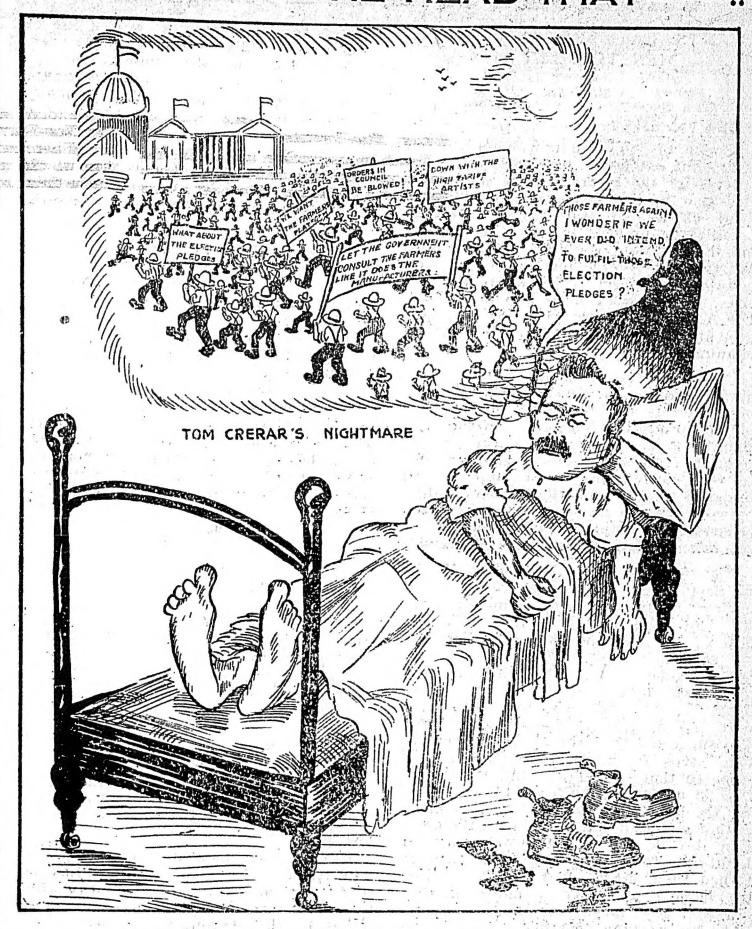
I would let the post offices manage the banking business under Government con-

Mr. Blair did not pursue this further, but thought I was talking some sort of Socialism.

Observe the Law

The farmers' best plan right now is to concentrate their efforts on the 19-year-old class, for if they are taken we cannot garner the crop. We cannot hope to influence the Government to grant leave of absence to those that are in khaki now, as there is no law that I see where we have got anything to hang on, and we can only ask for relief in special cases,

UNEASY LIES THE HEAD THAT ---- II



widows' only sons, and aged parents' only sons. In cases outside of that, I don't think we should say a word about at all. The law of the land must be observed, and we will just have to bear it.

Home Conditions

In our district there will be many acres not put in, but if they leave the 19-year-old class now, and we have an open fall, it will be possible for us to garner the greater part of the crop. We will be awful late getting threshed, though. In this district it is no uncommon sight to see an outfit abandoned, I saw one place where the harness was thrown on top of the plow in the middle of the field.

In Spring Lake, and north of Daysland districts, there is great resentment. are mostly Galicians and were disfranchised last fall, but their boys are taken just the same. Pete Zimmer of Spring Lake was disfranchised and they have taken three of his boys. Two had land of their own, and part of it plowed. Not half of the plowed land is in crop. In these districts, I don't think that over two-thirds of the land under cultivation is under criop.

When East Meets West

I have great hopes of the future with the farmers in Canada, both East and

West, well organized. The Ontario and Ouebec men who are leaders are A1, and President Halbert and Messrs. Morrison and Gurney are humdingers.

United Action Needed

Though one had little sleep or rest yet am glad the trip was taken. My only regret was not being allowed to protest when Borden read the U.F.A. telegram at the big meeting. I felt then it was not read right. We were all crowded standing on the platform and I pushed through but was given no chance to explain it did not represent the views of the rank and file of the Alberta farmers.

Our contact with the Ontario and Quebec farmers will do good and they are just as good as we are. No press will ever prejudice me against them. We have the same common cause. Whatever changes will come must be through the efforts of the farmers themselves and this has done more to rouse us to united action than years of propaganda could have done.

JAS. MINER.

Read "The Fear of Want" on page 14. By W. B. Nicholson, Black Diamond.

The Non-Partisan Letter Box

WANTS FARMERS AND LABOR MEN TO MEET

> Veteran, Alta. May 29th, 1918

Editor, Non-Partisan:-

I wish to congratulate you on the fine issues put out lately, and wish you every success for the future. If we get a crop this year in this district there will be a good chance to start a Non-Partisan organization up here, as a lot of the farmers are thinking and working that way now. We think it is time for the farmers and labor men to elect their own representatives, and to work more together. At a U.F.A. meeting with 75 or 80 members present the following resolution was passed unanimously:

"Whereas the organized farmers have always claimed they have worked for the best interests not only of the farmers, but of all producing classes, therefore we think it is in the interests of the farmers to invite representatives of organized labor to our conventions as a step toward bringing about a better understanding between organized labor and the organized farmers, so that they may help each other get fair legislation that both demand."

The farmers here think that if the politicians can keep the farmers and laborers fighting amongst themselves that the kind like Bill and Dan, Flavelle, Siftons, etc., will be the ones that pay the campaign funds and then of course will get good fat hand-outs that the producers will have to pay for, so they sent in the above resolution to come before our next U.F.A. Annual Convention. They also suggested that the U.F.A. Executive take steps to invite representatives of labor to that convention, but the executive do not appear to favor that, as they say the labor men have not made a move in that direction yet, but I think the labor men did at the U.F.A. Convention at Lethbridge four years ago, and the farmers turned them down, so it would not hurt the farmers to make a move in that direction now, as they certainly could do more by working together.

Some of the farmers around here that used to tell us the way to reform politics was to work through the same old parties, and who thought the Union Government a grand step, are changing their minds now, as nearly all the men taken from here in this last draft were genuine farmers and they had in on an average more than one hundred acres of grain each; yet these men were taken, and all kinds of unproductive businesses allowed to run unrestricted.

There would not be so much kick against conscription of men if people thought there was a real attempt to use everything toward winning the war, but it looks as if the Government were too busy playing politics to do that. The farmers are trying to produce food as they were told they must do, and are now wondering what the Government will do toward ensuring them labor to harvest, coal-oil to thresh, and cars to ship the grain; but it is likely the Government won't know these things are needed until the last minute. The farmers can't expect a Government elected by campaign funds provided by other interests to work for them, so maybe after a while they will get wise enough to elect their own members.

I am enclosing \$2.00 to renew my subscription, and send paper to attached address for one year. Below is a list of names you could send some sample copies. Yours for the Cause,

-G. R. ORCHARD.

(We thank Mr. Orchard for introducing The Non-Partisan to his friends, and if any of our readers can forward subscriptions to the paper we will be glad to receive them, or a list of names, to whom we can send sample copies and who would be interested in reading same.)

HE LIKES IT, YET ----!!!

Vulcan, Alberta.

THE ALBERTA Non-Partisan.
Good Friends:—

Please stop sending me your paper, not because I don't like it, I do, but I am a Socialist of the old school, therefore there are other papers I like better.

I think it is a bad mistake to split up

I think it is a bad mistake to split up progressive forces. We need to be united, without that we will never win, and one cannot be expected to change more for less. Take notice how the capitalists stick together. Don't think you can ever fool them.

Yours,
—C. L. SALLSTROM.

* * *

MANY THANKS!

Milk River, May 28th. Alberta Non-Partisan:—

Enclosed find \$2.00 for subscriptions as follows. Wishing you much success.

Yours truly,
—J. B. ELLERT.

THE ONLY WAY

Federal, Alberta, May 20th, 1918.

THE ALBERTA NON-PARTISAN.
Gentlemen:—

Having been handed some copies of THE ALBERTA NON-PARTISAN, and having read same and being in sympathy with the principles and movement therein found, I wish to become a subscriber. Enclosed find \$1.00 for which send me the paper for one year, and I'll see that others read samples besides myself, if you send them.

Yours respectfully,
—Fred Steiner.

THE U.F. OF N.B.

The United Farmers of New Brunswick is now an established organization with over 900 members. There are 20 local organizations in three counties (Carleton, Victoria and York). The President, C. L. Smith, is a practical farmer and an ex-M.P.P. He has large interests in Abberta where three sons are framing. He got the idea of organization from Alberta. The Province is very compact and it is expected can be mostly organized this year. A solid New Brunswick would be a good addition to the Canadian Council of Agriculture. The farmers in Quebec, too, are beginning to stir and steps are likely to be taken this summer to push organization in that Province also.

Man has a right to think all things, speak all things, write all things, but not to impose his opinions.—Machiavelli.

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GEMS FROM TORONTO

The Big Convention of Ontario Farmers

Organize!!! Organize!! Keynote: Organize!

At the call of the Committee appointed At the call of the Committee appointed when the big delegation to Ottawa took place, 3,000 Ontario farmers assembled in Toronto on June 8th. Necessity for restraint being past, some plain speaking was indulged in. Many constructive was indulged in. Many constructive resolutions were passed calling for action resolutions were passed calling for action along intelligent lines. Much interest is being taken by the farmers of Alberta, who are affected by the same problems,—we give a few "pickings" of the proceedings taken from the columns of the "Toron-Scre". to Sun.

Meeting Representative

The importance of the meeting was that it was truly representative of farmers from every part of Ontario who put their ideals into concrete form after threshing out their problems in wide-open discussions. The meeting was at times turbulent because of the pent-up feelings of the farmers who had been forced to listen in silence at home to a press that had not exactly told the truth-the whole truth about them. Now opportunity had come and nothing less than the truth was acceptable.

The Call for Organization

A great impetus has been given to organized agriculture. The point was aptly made by J. J. Morrison, Secty, of U.F.O., that it was through the medium of the U.F.O. that the meetings of protest had been arranged. Without such an organization the farmers would have been a rabble, but with it properly supported and directed by all the farmers great things are possible in the political and national life of Ontario and Canada. The farmers are now more united in thought than ever before.

The call for organization was an outstanding feature and those present were repeatedly urged on their return home to do all possible to extend the membership and influence of their local clubs. There was also a strong feeling for exerting politi-cal influence by watching the record of their members of Parliament.

Ontario and Quebec

A beneficial result was the cementing of friendship between the farmers of Quebec and Ontario—a friendship that has already been attacked by the Partisan Press in an effort to keep these two great elements of Canada's life at each other's throats-for the benefit of a third interest. J. W. Levesque, M. P. P. for Laval, Que., brought fraternal greetings from Quebec farmers, and declared it was their intention to organize along the lines of the U.F.O. in his own Province. "It is im-possible," observed Mr. Levesque, "to bring an organization into being in one season like a crop planted one month and several months later the result garnered in the harvest. Long, slow, painstaking effort was required to gain the desired result. We are willing to work hand in hand with our brother farmers in Ontario for the good of industry and the welfare of the State—which depends upon agriculture for its sustenance."

To this President Halbert, a rigid Orangeman, responded with the declara-tion that, "Politicians have tried to build up a steel wall between Ontario and Quebec for their own advantage, but they can't do it again, "

Jean Masson, red-headed, volatile, clearspeaking French Co-operator also spoke at the night meeting.

Some Forcible Logic

Roderick McKenzie, Secretary of the Canadian Council of Agriculture, advanced canadar Counter of Agriculture, advanced some logical arguments regarding the Government treating the farming industry different to any other. "When war equipment and munitions were wanted the Government called the manufacturers in to discuss means and methods. When food control was necessary it called together the food manufacturers and dis-tributors, but when the question of food production came up what was done? Instead of seeking advice from chosen representatives of producers it ignored them. The reason was every other industry was organized better than the farmers were. They must go on until a majority of the farmers of Canada were in their movement, and every farmer who did not join an association would be a just the same as a railway man was looked upon who was not a member of his fraternal organization. Farmers as yet had not put the proper money value on their organizations. The work of every member only began when they paid their nombership for We have the experiments. membership fee. We have got to organize and we have got to pay for it."

Alberta's Famous Wire

The U.F.A.'s famous telegram which had a disturbing effect upon organized agriculture all over Canada, was frankly explained by Pres. Wood and the meeting after hearing him accepted his explanation, his regrets, and his assurance that it was done with no desire to damage the cause. He did not blame Ontario for resenting the telegram and the interpretation that the Government had put upon it, but "do not let any mistake that Alberta has made, or any ill feeling that has been engendered, cause Ontario to draw back from a movement that is now Dominion-wide." Mr. Wood stated some 3,000 head of work horses had been turned out in Alberta as a result of the Order-in-Council, and not a soul to buy them.
"Joe" Haycock's Hot Shots.

A distinct treat was the address of the old Patron of Industry veteran, Joe Hay-cock: "Some men are bald-headed out-side, and some are bald inside," was his opening shot. "It's against the law to say anything against the government, a man can be sent to jail for saying its rotten. I am not going to say that—it's not necessary All I would say, "Turn your nose in the direction of its past pledges!" The government have used the Military Service Act as a donkey engine to hoist themselves into power: But what have we to kick about. We have got just what we deserve. On election day, 40 farmers go out to work for the Conservative party, and 40 work for the Liberals, then along comes 'the man with the bag, gets 20 doubtful votes and secures control of the government. It's not easy to change a man's party. Some inherit their political skins from their great grandfathers, and can't shed them like a snake does. There isn't much hope for the old men, but the young men should not allow the dust and ashes of their ancestors to do their thinking for them.

Relations with Labor. The Canadian Labor Party sent a letter of greetings, and Pres. Halbert was in his best form in telling of a meeting of U. F. O. leaders with the labor men some months ago. The papers ever since have endeavored to put up a barrier between labor and us, but the interests of the real labor men and ourselves are identical in many respects One thing we can learn from them: They have a fine lot of speakers. They are al-ways meeting. That's what we need to do. ways meeting.

(Continued on Page 13)



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FORD AND CHEVROLET SPECIALISTS

OUR PARLIAMENTARY LETTER

(Continued from Page 7)

The sooner Unionism acquires a fresh outlook or stands convicted as merely a new form of the old party game skillfully camouflaged, the better for the country. If Parliamentary Government is to survive as an effective force in Canada the individual member, must assert and recover his personal independence of thought and speech.

As it is to-day, the prestige of Parliament has been gradually declining for some years. Policies are being devised and the driving force for reforms supplied elsewhere. It is a notable fact that nowadays, as much attention is paid by the general public to the proceedings of bodies like the Grain Growers' Associations, the C. M. A., the Trades Union Congress and the Great War Veterans' Association as to happenings in the Legislative halls of Ottawa. People look to these conferences of representatives bodies for keen discussion and develop-ment of ideas, and it is among these bodies that policies are thrashed out and forced upon the Cabinet. But, under a truly representative system, the proper forcing house of ideas and policies ought to be the floor of Parliament itself. Not that the constituencies are without blame in the matter. Too often they leave the task of nomination to little cliques totally un-representative of the community. When representative of the community. When their member has been elected they turn him into an office boy and harass him with a multitude of petty requests and difficul-ties which he never should be required to attend to. If the electorate of Canada want a decent Government they should not seek so much a delegate as a selected man of tried ability and high character who will be accorded by them a certain freedom to exercise his own judgment. The better-ment of democracy must come by a change from the method of delegation to the method of careful selection. The American President is the product of a long and careful process of selection, and in thirty-odd Presidents who have held office, comparatively few have not been men of first-rate calibre. The greatest need of the Cana-dian parliament is the importance of the quality of its representatives and this can only be achieved by the constituencies themselves.

Not that the parliament now closed did not accomplish some good work. Its Civil Service Reform Act is a valuable improvement in our administrative system, and the extension of the suffrage to women is a step in the direction of progress. The budget did something to allocate a fairer share of the burdens of the war to the richer classes though much remains still to be done. The abolition of hereditary titles in Canada is a great gain for democracy, and stands out as a land mark in constitutional history. The railway policy of the Government has taken a crystalized form and by force of circumstances the country is now on the high road to obtain a national system of railways. There is no more important and vital problem than the organization and handling of that system within the next few years. If it is conducted with care and efficiency and the telegraph and express services linked up with the railways now passing into the states hands are well managed, the bias of public opinion in favor of the national system may well attract an enormous volume of business and bring the C.P.R. clamouring for inclusion in the national system within a few years. It is almost a tragedy that one of the most reactionary of the Cabinet happens to be Minister of

There has been considerable improvement in the military system of the country,

and General Mewburn has been particularly successful in his handling of the Quebec If the old Borden Government had not been almost more intent upon defeating Sir Wilfrid Laurier than the Prussians, and had not deliberately discouraged sans, and nad not denote a term secondaged recruiting in Quebec for a long period, there would have been no trouble and threat of national schism. What contributed to the healing process more than anything else was the relaxation of the control of Ontario Toryism at Ottawa. The French Canadian members who form the main strength of the opposition impressed the observer with their extensive knowledge of political history and con-stitutional questions. They have not the same capacity for economic problems, but most of them are natural orators and careful students of parliamentary history and procedure. In general, they have a knowledge of the science of Government far superior to the average English speaking member. During the last session, under the skilful leadership of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, they exhibited a marked restraint, even in the debate on the Quebec riots and in general what criticism they offered of the Government's measures were moderate

The English-speaking members on the opposition benches are few in number, but they have in Messrs. Jacobs, MacMaster and Cahill, three or four of the ablest recruits to the House. On the whole, the opposition performed its functions well though some of Sir Wilfrid's senior lieutenants are extremely narrow partisans adicted to the futile belief that an opposition's only business is to oppose and that there is no necessity for constructive ideas. Naturally the members in opposition have certain advantages. They are always on the attack and of necessity have to examine problems and develop ideas. have no cares about administration, and need give scant consideration to the effect of policies upon the vote. If the opposition can develop enough constructive talent and transform itself into a real democratic party, it might soon develop enough electoral support to become a Government even apart from the prospect of secessions from the Unionist ranks which are almost inevitable. are almost inevitable. The present Unionist party is obviously a make-shift, and few people believe that it can survive the end of the war. In most successful coalitions there has been some approximation of ideas among the coalescing parties, but in this case the only bond was the issue of conscription. Remove that and the gulf which separates Mr. Cockshutt from Messrs. Reid and Maharg soon becomes too deep to be bridged. Nor is Sir Robert Borden exactly the inspiring personality who can hold together a party of vitally divergent elements. Some speculations as to what the future trend of politics in Canada may be will be reserved for a future

-BYSTANDER



PANTAGES

WEEK OF JUNE 24TH

GALETTIS BABOONS

SIX
Other Features

ALLEN

MONDAY and TUESDAY

William S. Hart

- In -

"Selfish Yates"

FRIDAY and SATURDAY

Sessue Hayakawa

- In -

The White Man's Law

My Impressions of the Legislature By Alex. Ross, M.L.A.

Patronage—Natural Resources—The Party System.



The first division in the Legislature arose out of a political crime perpetrated by ex-Premier Sifton at the

close of his regime. It transpired that Sifton persuaded one of his political friends who was a prospective candidate at the last election, to give way to a more desirable friend; the price to be

a job as sheriff. There being no judicial disricts at the time in need of a sheriff... Sifton created one for his obliging friend now known, I believe, as the judicial district of Camrose. Strange to say, Premier Stewart supported Sifton in his generosity to his friend. The Conservative members could not resist the opportunity of objecting to this transaction, and very piously declaimed on the patronage evil, appearing quite surprised to learn that Government could be guilty of such a crime. The interesting feature of the whole discussion on the patronage system was the obvious insincerity of both parties. The men who condemned the patronage most loudly were the men who maintained the right to hand out plums to their friends in their own constituencies. This piece of political bye-play was so transparent that . several members including myself were conveniently absent when the vote was taken.

The next division occurred when the Supplementary Revenue Tax was voted on. The Conservatives objected to this tax because it introduced direct taxation as a means of raising the revenues of the province. Direct taxation we hope will be permanently established in Alberta before the province falls heir to the natural resources. Provincial control of our natural resources will only be a benefit if the province adopts the policy of retaining those resources for the benefit of the people. If the present policy is maintained, it is immaterial whether Ottawa or Edmonton hands them out for exploitation.

Our natural resources must not be denationalized. We have a splendid object lesson in Europe, where the land problem is now acute. The battle cry of the Russian revolution was the "Land for the people." Private ownership of land will gradually disappear at the conclusion of the war in Europe. In Canada, it is just the reverse; we are doing our utmost to establish it.

Although declarations of independence of thought were made by quite a few members of the Legislature on both sides, nevertheless when a vote was taken the parties, as a rule, voted solidly. I do not consider this so much a reflection on the individual as on our parliamentary procedure, as an adverse vote on any Government measure is a vote of no confidence. a vote immediately calls for the resignation of the Government, which may entail considerable expense, probably over some trivial matter. There is no good reason why an adverse vote on a Government measure should be regarded as a vote of no confidence; it ought to be regarded as an objection to the measure rather than the Government. Until this barrier is removed, and a vote of no confidence is to be considered only when made as such, we will continue to get imediocre legislation. It is, however, extremely unlikely that such

a change will be made as it strikes at the root of the party system of Government.

There is a growing sentiment against the party system of Government in the West-ern provinces. There is no question that it is responsible for so much ill-digested legislation. The method of electing pro-vincial representatives is also out of harmony with the desire to abolish partyism. A new election act is necessary embodying Proportional Representation, which will at least give all the elements within the province an opportunity of being represented. As an illustration, 112,000 votes were cast at the last election-56 per cent. for Liberals who secured 30 seats out of the 48, while the Conservatives polled 36 per cent. and only secured 14 seats. The Independents got 8 per cent. of the vote, with 3 These are only approximate figures and do not include the soldiers' vote or the members who retained their seats by virtue of being overseas. If proportional representation had been in vogue during the last election the standing of the parties would have been changed.

GEMS FROM TORONTO (Continued from Page 11) What the Convention Did.

The convention protested strongly against government by orders-in-council; asked for appeal tribunals to consider extreme cases; requested that same consideration for food producers in Canada as in United States; asked for advisory board of farmers be established to meet production needs in various provinces; demanded exemption of all owners of farms and for sufficient skilled agricultural labor to supply one man for each 100 acres urged industrial re-organization committee, on which agriculture would be fully represented with manufacturing, labor, finance and transportation interests.

A Farmer's Paper

The Convention also slated severely the attitude of the daily press towards the farmers and scathing remarks were made as to the manner the daily press of Ontario conducted discussions of public affairs. It was evident there was something more than high-tempered gas behind the denunciation when pledges of \$25,700 to be taken in stock in the proposed official organ was given before the meeting closed. J. S. Kernighan Chairman of the Committee, stated that not only did good policy dictate the desirability of an official organ, but it was absolutely necessary. "The farmers must own and control it and it is for them to decide whether it shall be a monthly, weekly or daily. Whatever we have, we want something clean, we don't want to swallow the dirt we are getting now." The opinion of the Convention was that a daily was required.

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THE FEAR OF WANT

By W. B. Nicolson, Black Diamond

What is the greatest need of mankind today? Ask the Church, and without giving details, the answer will be "Cristianity." Ask the Temperance Workers and they will say "Total Prohibition." Ask the Labor Unions and they will say "better wages and better working conditions." The first-named would be the best answer but for the reason that the Curch has failed to go into details both in preaching and practice, and instead of presenting a complete interpretaiton of Christianity and applying it to the present needs of mankind, it has shrouded religion in such a mystical atmosphere of spirituality that with a large percentage of the people it is only a mere formality. Man has always suffered from want and the fear of want, and the Church has so far failed to eliminate either even from its closest adherents. The elimination of the liquor trade the world over would be a great help and so would better wages and working conditions, but there would still be much slavery and the fear

After working at many trades in many climes the writer of this article is of the opinion that the fear of want is the cause of as much misery as the actual

want itself.

The average wage earner is almost continually under the fear of finding himself out of a position, or, when he is without work the fear is always present that want may come before work is found. This constant insecurity and fear pervading the entire condition of the working people crushes out much of the happiness that should be theirs, and cannot help but have a detrimental effect on their entire lives.

Many miserable days are spent that might otherwise have been utilized in useful recreation or study, and so, instead of becoming a pleasant, smilling being bringing good cheer to all he meets, man is only too apt to develop into a miserable, morbid creature, thinking of little else but the need of gold and living continually in the fear that in the mad competition of our modern system of trade and commerce he may be left

The very foundation of his character may be undermined, and, like a contagious disease, others will be affected

until it becomes even a national menace. Neither is this fear confined to the wage earner. The tillers of the soil are not strangers to it, and even many of the larger employers may be in a nervous suspense through the fear of ruinous competition.

Competition may be the life of trade. but under modern methods it has proved the death of countless victims, both man and beast, and not only a literal death but a living death as well.

Many contend that we set too high a tandard which causes much discontent. The ones who advocate that, however, are likely to be the ones who have never felt the fear of want themselves. Why should man not be blessed with the fruits of his labor? Why should he not wish for the conveniences he sees all around him? The speed of modern productive machinery is such that under proper control it would bring a high standard of living to all producers and that without making labor a curse, as is often the case now.

The truth is that the average worker only gets a portion of the products of only gets and that at such intermittent periods that there is want most of the time and the fear of want all of the

No greater blessing could come to mankind than the assurance that he would at all times be able to provide for himself and his dependents. When the day's work is done he should have the privilege of complete mental relaxation as well as physical. This he can not have under present conditions.

Every day in the year there is some labor union strike for better conditions and wages. This is well. Both are need. ed and it may show the way to the root of the evil, but better wages and better working conditions as they are viewed today will not eliminate the fear of

wa.n.t.

They will not give any assurance that there will not be an over production and the works shut down tomorrow. They will not find other employment to the miner, the factory hand or the lumberman when the demand for their products suddenly ceases from an over production or a dozen and one other different causes. They will not solve the problem of the farm laborer who helps on the farm only in the summer months.

The solution to the problem is cooperation. Competition has ben tried and has railed. But so complex has the modern system of production and distribution become, that no one organization is capable of working out a practical solution and putting it in force. It will take the combined efforts of the labor unions, social workers, and last, but not least, the Church.

Already the Church is beginning to see that it is man's relations to the material things of this life that shapes his spiritual welfare, that the two are inseparable. It is taking up the subject of the ambolition of poverty and government ownership of industries. So far the start has only just been made. All the Churches must take up the subject. Committees must be appointed to study it from a scientific viewpoint and ministers must preach it from the pulpit so that the people may be educated and awakened to the fact that the Klingdom of God can never come while present conditions prevail. The revolution must be world wide. It is not enough that one or two nations succeed in bringing about an ideal condition within their own borders. Through the speedy commercial channels all nations are becoming closely related in industrial matters.

One noted writer has said in speaking of this war that war is caused by man's stupidity; that man is eternally stuid, and therefore there will always be war. If that is true, then Christianity is false and the efforts of the labor unions and other kindred organizations will be for

naught.

Let us continue to hope that through the efforts of the Church, the social workers and labor unions and by the help of the trained economist that soon both want and the fear of want will be eliminated and consigned to the graveyard of other conditions of slavery that have gone before. Let us hope that man is not eternally stupid.

In writing advertisers mention "The Non-Partisan".

THE GERMAN BAN(NE)D

"Toronto, June 11.-William Banks, chief theatrical censor here, has warned the Canadian National Exhibition authorthe Canadian Allowing the playing of any German music at the Exhibition this year. The censor says that a number of clergy-men have banned Mendelssohn's wedding march in their churches."

-CALGARY CANADIAN.

"The man that hath no music in himself. Nor is not moved with concord of sweet sounds.

Is fit for treason, stratagems, and spoils." -SHAKESPEARE

There once was a censor named Banks, Who played most remarkable pranks, Each German musician

He consigned to perdition, So they crowned him the king of the cranks.

Quoth the censor, my sense, or acumen Assures me all Huns are inhuman. I can stand Donizetti, From the land of spaghetti, But really can't tolerate Schumann.

And further, said Banks, from the land All German bands henceforth are banned. And Mozart and Beethoven With Bach interwoven May consider themselves to be canned.

No more the June bride down the aisle Will parade in magnificent style, To strains Mendelssohnian Played on the harmonium,

Wedding marches are Hunnish and vile.

So good-bye to the wedding bells' ding-

dong,
Farewell to Wagnerian sing-song,
No more Gertrude Hoffmann her clothing will doff,
While she dances to Mendelssohn's Spring Song.

No more in the church will "Old Hundred" By choirs be volleyed and thundered, When the parson's through gag-time We'll hymn it in rag-time, Our connection with Luther is sundered.

Though perhaps we might substitute Sankey,

The hymnological Yankee, He can't hold a candle
To George Fredrich Handel,
But "handles" are more or less "crank"-y.

So all who sweet music have fed on, Take part in this great Armageddon,
If all our contrivance Won't kill off the live Huns, We can each take a shot at a dead 'un.

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